

BLAIR - re analysis

September 26, 1960

Mr. Robert G. Blair
Geology Department
Dartmouth College
Hanover, New Hampshire

Dear Mr. Blair:

I note the attached news note with interest.

Are you making any effort to find surviving
bacteria - or their corpses - in the old samples?
Do you know of anyone who is?

Yours sincerely,

JL/jh
Attach.

DARTMOUTH GETS TONS OF POLAR ICE

Study Samples Up to 5,000
Years Old Transported by
Plane, Ship and Truck

By MILTON HONIG

Special to The New York Times.

BAYONNE, N. J., Sept. 15—

A shipment of Canadian Arctic ice and snow weighing several tons was unloaded here today at the Navy's supply depot.

On hand to take over the unusual shipment was 23-year-old Robert G. Blair of Maumee, Ohio, a research assistant in the Geology Department of Dartmouth College.

The ice cores were bored from an ice shelf near Ward Hunt Island, the northernmost Canadian island, 300 miles south of the North Pole, and were said to be 1,000 to 5,000 years old.

Mr. Blair was one of twenty members of a United States-Canadian expedition stationed at the island from May 1 to June 30 to study the nature, origin and future history of floating ice shelves.

The ice cores were obtained from various depths by hand drills. Samplings ranged in size from less than an inch to more than thirty inches.

Earlier Effort Failed

Mr. Blair said that a year ago a similar effort to bring back ice samples had failed because the ice melted. It must be kept at temperatures between zero to 15 degrees Fahrenheit to avoid a change in crystal structure.

This time the samples were wrapped in plastic liners and placed in aluminum-coated cardboard cylinders, three feet long and three inches in diameter. They were then nestled in snow in three huge wooden crates lined with plastic.

On June 10 the crates were flown by the Air Force to Thule Air Base in Greenland and stored under refrigeration until Sept. 1, when they were loaded on the refrigerator-equipped Navy freighter Bondia for the trip here.